

DOCKET SECTION

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

Docket No. R97-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS TAUFIQUE TO INTERROGATORIES OF
THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
(NNA/USPS-T34-2-3)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides responses of witness Taufique to the following interrogatories of the National Newspaper Association: NNA/USPS-T34-2-3, filed on September 12, 1997. A motion for extension of time to respond to these interrogatories was filed on September 26, 1997.

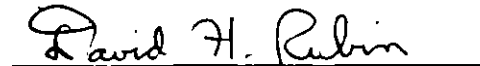
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



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October 1, 1997

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION (NNA)

NNA/USPS T34-2

Please consult the Domestic Mail Manual § 3.0 with reference to Exceptional Dispatch.

- a. Please explain in detail all differences between periodicals mail prepared to qualify for delivery unit discounts on the within-county and regular periodicals rate schedule and mail prepared and sorted for exceptional dispatch.
- b. Does your answer depend upon the degree of sortation provided by the mailer in each instance? If so, please explain.
- c. Please explain in particular any circumstances of which you are aware in which a mailer authorized to drop ship for exceptional dispatch would not receive delivery unit discounts.

RESPONSE

- a. With reference to Exceptional Dispatch, I assume that you are referring to DMM D210.2 and D210.3.

Mail prepared for destination delivery unit rates must be sorted to a carrier route package that is placed in a carrier route or 5-digit carrier routes sack or tray under DMM M200, or palletized under DMM M045. Such carrier route sorted pieces must be entered at the facility where the carrier cases mail for the carrier route serving the delivery address on the mailpiece. Plant - Verified drop shipment (PVDS) mailings must be verified at an original or additional entry office for subsequent mailer entry at one or more destination delivery units. Non-PVDS mail must be entered at a DDU at which the publisher has been authorized original or additional entry.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE
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NNA/USPS-T34-2(a) Continued, Page 2 of 3

It is my understanding that, other than the basic presort requirements in DMM 200, there are no specific presort requirements in the DMM for exceptional dispatch. As described in Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) D210.3.1 and D210.3.2, exceptional dispatch authorization allows a publisher, for service reasons, to deliver copies of a time-sensitive Periodicals publication, at the publisher's own expense and risk from the post office of original or additional entry to other post offices. It is intended for use with short-haul local distributions. An exceptional dispatch may be authorized for various types of postal facilities and is not limited to destination delivery units. Postage for exceptional dispatch mail is calculated from and paid at the original or additional entry office from which the exceptional dispatch was authorized. Exceptional dispatch mail is considered to be entered at the original or additional entry office from which the exceptional dispatch was authorized. Exceptional dispatch may not be used for publications authorized to be mailed under the Centralized Postal Payment (CPP) System or under the PVDS postage payment system. For all these reasons, Business Mail Acceptance has determined that matter deposited at a destination delivery unit under exceptional dispatch is not eligible for the destination entry rates.

b. See response to part a.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION (NNA)

NNA/USPS-T34-2, Page 3 of 3

- c. As indicated in part a, mailings deposited under exceptional dispatch are never eligible for the DDU discount. However, mailers who are using exceptional dispatch could change their operations to receive DDU rates by establishing additional entry at the destination office, or using PVDS, and meeting the other requirements presented in part a.

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NNA/USPS T34-3

3. Please list any and all reasons why a periodical granted exceptional dispatch privileges under DMM § 3.0 would not qualify for delivery office discounts.

RESPONSE

See my response to 2a.

DECLARATION

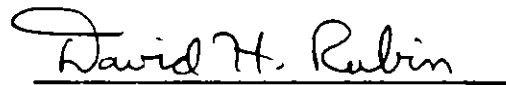
I, Altaf H. Taufique, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.


ALTAF H. TAUFIQUE

Dated: 10/1/97

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.


David H. Rubin

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October 1, 1997